



A Monthly Report from the Office of the City Manager ★ February 2006

Good news traveled fast this month when the City of College Station's Neighborhood Services Office learned its nomination for the Brazos County, Texas in World War II project had been selected as the recipient of the **2005 Texas Historical Commission Award of Excellence in Preserving History**.

As you may recall, the Labor Day weekend event commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII attracted hundreds of participants who enjoyed the panel presentations, fashion show, special attractions, historical displays and entertainment for all generations.

Only four months earlier, the Texas Historical Commission had strongly urged all Texas counties to promote the 60 year anniversary of the end of World War II. Fully believing that the veterans' stories and experiences were a national treasure, our City of College Station Historic Preservation Committee took this directive to heart. With the guidance of Neighborhood Services, the Brazos County Historical Commission and members of our community, residents began months of work that culminated in a one day interactive educational event at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum (*pictured above*).

Not only did they host the event, but chose to digitally archive as much information as possible into the Project HOLD (Historic OnLine Database) on the City's website. As the summer months passed, the Project HOLD office became the command center as veterans and family members brought in hundreds of resource materials to be documented. What began as a one day event became an invaluable resource for generations to come.

Special thanks to **Katie Elrod** and **Anne Boykin** of Neighborhood Services who provided significant

support for this project, plus drafting and submitting the nomination. The Steering Committee will be announced as winner of the award during the Texas Historical Commission's 2006 Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Galveston, April 20-22.

◆ Transportation remains at the top of the list of topics to be discussed as the Texas Department of Transportation begins implementing plans to construct new ramps and convert the access road to one way between Deacon and Rock Prairie. It is expected construction will begin in March with an informational meeting with the public planned March 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the CSU Building on Graham Road.

◆ *Uniquely College Station*, the City of College Station's 2005 Annual Report, was distributed in late February in *The Eagle* and also is available at City Hall.

The 24-page report includes a review of activities and accomplishments in 2005, ranging from the community's hurricane response efforts to completion of the Wolf Pen Creek Upper Trails. Information on current transportation and development projects is also featured.

To complement the publication, a segment on Channel 19's *City View* will be devoted in 2006 to "quality of life" features to update residents on topics of interest throughout the year.

Interim City Manager



Wolf Pen Creek Trails Set for March Completion



If you haven't been to the Wolf Pen Creek Trails lately, you will find it worth the trip. As Phase II nears completion, the 1.8 miles of continuous pedestrian trails stretching from the Highway 6 frontage road to George Bush East Drive are already a favorite spot for residents.

With improvements ranging from parking and landscaping to water fountains, emergency telephone systems and bike racks, an official grand opening is planned April 22. That same day the Corridor also will host the Planet Earth celebration, a fun run and a Starlight Music Series concert.

A Trail Ranger program also is being developed through College Stations' Parks and Recreation Department to educate staff on trails issues such as habitat, urban streams, trail safety, maintenance protocols and guest relations. It should be fully operational by April with uniformed employees to assist in the trails area.

Corridor merchants are underwriting production of a Wolf Pen Creek Corridor map with information on trail distance, habitat, history and programming.



Strike up the band...

*Air Force Concert Band, Singing Sergeants
Schedule March 21 Performance at Rudder*



Great band classics, outstanding soloists, and stirring patriotic music. To enjoy an evening of the very best the United States Air Force has to offer, mark your calendar for the March 21 performance of the United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants.

Under the direction of Commander and Music Director Dennis M. Layendecker, the flagship musical ensemble has scheduled a 7:30 pm performance in Rudder Auditorium. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Seating is on first-come basis and ticket holders must be seated 15 minutes prior to the performance. *(Tickets are available from The Eagle offices, 1729 Briarcrest, beginning March 1.)*

The Concert Band is a world class symphonic wind ensemble. Its 65 members perform a wide variety of musical repertoire from light classics, popular favorites and instrumental features to the most serious classical transcriptions and original works for the band idiom. One of the world's most versatile and traveled choral organizations, the Singing Sergeants is the official 23-voice chorus of the USAF. Performances cover a wide range of musical offerings including opera, traditional and contemporary choral literature, oratorio, folk songs, pop standards, musical theater and jazz -- with an emphasis on the choral music of America.

For more than 60 years, the USAF Band from Washington, D.C. has been playing for music lovers around the world. Don't miss your chance to hear them at 7:30 pm Wednesday, March 21, in Rudder Auditorium on the Texas A&M University campus. Sponsors of the event include the City of College Station.



Inside College Station...

◆ “Senior Friendly Awards” are presented by the College Station Senior Advisory Committee to recognize businesses that meet the needs of seniors in our community.



Latest winners are **Home Instead**, nominated and selected based on the services and support they provide for seniors and their families; and **HEB**, for their efforts to provide merchandise for seniors in a setting that is accessible and friendly.

Customers or business owners may complete a nomination form available at the College Station Parks and Recreation Department. For more information, contact **Marci Rodgers**, Senior Services Coordinator, at 764-6371.

(Pictured left, top: HEB Manager Tony Atkins and HEB Store

Director Brian Janner receive award from Bob Meyer, Advisory Committee Chair. Pictured left, below: Joanna Yeager presents Senior Friendly Award to Michelle Yeatts with Home Instead.)



◆ Finalists for City Manager identified earlier this month are scheduled to visit College Station February 27-28 for a reception, tour and interviews with Council members.

Finalists include **James Antonen** of Davis, California; **Glenn Brown**, College Station's Interim City Manager; **William Eisen** of Pearland; **Steven Thompson** of Virginia Beach, Virginia; and **Richard Torres** of Haltom City.

More than 100 applications were submitted to The Mercer Group, the firm coordinating the national search, before narrowing the list to 12 candidates for Council members to identify finalists for the City's top administrative post.

Mayor Ron Silvia identified experience and education as the qualifications that stood out among the five selected for interviews. Each holds a master's degree in public administration.

◆ **International Week** at Texas A&M University will offer a range of activities from opening ceremonies at 11 a.m. February 27 in the Flag Room of the MSC to “A World of Reflections,” an international variety show, at 7 p.m. March 4 in Rudder Auditorium.

Events in between will include cultural displays, an art exhibit and international buffet. For more information, details are posted at www.IWeek2006.com.



Speaking of success...

★ **College Station's Planning and Development Services Department** announced winners of annual awards at a January luncheon.

Terry Boriskie, plans examiner, was chosen among his peers as the 2006 P & DS Employee of the Year. Also recognized were **John Maldonado**, building inspector, as Team Player; **Lisa Lindgren**, staff assistant, as Rookie of the Year; **Josh Norton**, graduate civil engineer, for Dependability; and **Gina Southerland**, customer service representative, for Positive Attitude.

"Our success is due to the hard work of these employees and other folks in the Department who provide great service, both to external as well as internal customers," said **Joey Dunn**, Director of Planning and Development Services. "I appreciate their efforts and congratulate them on this recognition."

★ **"A Community of Respect,"** a collaborative effort to provide cultural awareness and understanding, sponsored a Leadership Summit January 30 at Texas A&M University that drew participants from across the community. A program overview, description of curriculum and table discussion comments provided a unique opportunity to explain plans for the cross-cultural community training program outlined in the program.

Initial plans call for training a minimum of 500 persons, with 60 City of College Station employees scheduled for training sessions in February and March. Trainers from Police, Fire and Human Resources are Ryan Flynn, Billy Bradshaw and Marita O'Dell. Sponsors are the City of College Station, City of Bryan, Blinn College, Chamber of Commerce and Texas A & M University.

★ **January sales tax receipts** (*December sales*) have been received from the State Comptroller's Office. The City collected \$1,947,926 for the month of December, representing a 6.14% increase in revenue from the same month a year earlier.

Tax revenues were projected to grow at or around the 5% trend. The Budget Office will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount.

January FY06 Receipts

\$1,947,926

Actual Difference

Percent Difference

January FY05 Receipts

\$1,853,174

\$112,752

6.14%

FY06 YTD Receipts

\$6,004,196

FY05 YTD Receipts

\$5,582,709



Pictured above is Connie Hooks, City Secretary, who recently completed recertification requirements and received her certificate January 19, 2006 at the Election Law Seminar at the University of North Texas in Denton. The program is sponsored by the Texas Municipal Clerks Association.

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Heart of the
Research Valley

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College Station, TX 77842
www.cstx.gov

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Monday, February 27

-TxDOT Informational Meeting,
BVCOG Offices, 9 am to noon

-Opening Ceremonies,
International Week, TAMU
Flag Room, 11 am

-Reception for City Manager
Finalists, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 28

-City Manager Interviews,
College Station Conference
Center, 7:30 am to 5 pm

-Fifth Annual Growth &
Development Luncheon,
Briarcrest CC, 11:30 am to 2 pm

Thursday, March 2

Groundbreaking at Veterans Park
& Athletic Complex (Phase II),
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 4

Clara Mounce Roast, Pebble
Creek CC, 11 am - 2 pm

Monday, March 6

TxDOT Town Hall Meeting,
CSU Building, Graham Road,
6:30 pm

Thursday, March 9

City Council Workshop, 3 pm
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Wednesday, March 21

United States Air Force Band,
Rudder Auditorium, 7:30 pm

Shining moments...

★ Letter to **Glenn Brown** from **City of Sugar Land**: "I would like to thank you and your tremendous team for hosting seven of our city's team members on an IT site visit. We are struggling a bit to effectively utilize HTE's work order system and infrastructure management is a related critical need. David Massey and several other key staff members are really helping us. Glenn, **Allen Bogard**, City Manager, is greatly appreciative of your time and assistance. Thanks so much on his and the entire team's behalf." --**David Ellison**, Assistant City Manager, City of Sugar Land.

★ Letter to **Fire Chief R. B. Alley** recognizing **College Station firefighters**: "I would like to recognize the following College Station firefighters and emergency responders for helping me through a health crisis in late January: **Bo Deal, Leon Moore, Lewis Clinkscales, Kevin Simmons, Tommy Tharp, Chris Poole and Jeff Kuykendall**. On the morning of the 28th, I sneezed and was immediately thrown into severe back pain due to a pinched nerve. I was home alone and so I couldn't call for help right away. I finally called my brother, who called 911. I was in so much pain that I could not move. The Fire Department's emergency responders arrived within minutes, and even though I was nearly delirious with pain, the firefighters worked as a team to minimize that pain. They showed caring, dedication, and attention to patient needs. They did everything they could to relieve my pain and make my journey to the College Station Medical Center Emergency Room as comfortable as possible. I fell all the firefighters who helped me that day deserve special recognition, and wanted you to know what a great group of employees you have." -- **Jeffrey Boriski**, College Station resident

★ To **Bridgette George**, Planning and Development Services: "We just received your email regarding the changes for 2006 through one of our brokers. The website and tools are fantastic. I wanted to congratulate your team on this work and also let you know that as developers we appreciate all your efforts in making communication and interaction more fluid. The City of College Station's Planning and Development team is by far one of the most progressive groups that we work with and we look forward to developing more project in College Station." -- **Key Kasravi**, Ponderosa Land Development Company, Houston

★ Letter to **Glenn Brown** complimenting **Public Works** employees: "I just wanted to tell you how much my husband and I appreciate the care, concern and time that John Logan and Edward McDonald spent with us on Thursday. We live on Grove Street where upgrades will be done this spring on the drainage, curbs and sidewalks. They, as well as Mark Smith, are working out a solution so that our property will be enhanced (sidewalk placement) and not damaged (carport overhang) in the process." -- **Sharon and Ronny Menn**, Grove Street